









# NEWSLETTER

BRITISH MUSEUM  
(NATURAL HISTORY)  
- 6 JUL 1992  
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for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 38

Summer 1992

Number 2

## Snow on the Mountain

"Welcome to the Carolina Bird Club *winter* - - - I mean *spring* meeting!" CBC president John Wright was trying to make a joke out of the unseasonably cold weather in the North Carolina mountains. Although there was no snow in Boone to greet the 173 birders registered for the meeting, there was plenty on Grandfather and Pisgah mountains and the Blue Ridge Parkway near Asheville causing some quick revisions of field trip plans. Even if the field trips had been weathered out, the super program planned by Pat Wilkison with the help of Dominick D'Ostilio would have been worth the trip.

An exhibit of bird art by Doug Pratt brightened the walls of our meeting room in the Quality Inn Appalachian Conference Center at Boone, NC. Included were the original illustrations for *Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains* which had been released by UNC Press just in time for the meeting. The author of the book, Mark Simpson, was our featured speaker Saturday evening. His introduction by *The Chat* editor emeritus, Eloise Potter, was a fascinating slice of CBC history and a sketch of the contributions of two eager young birders who grew to be outstanding ornithologists in addition to achieving prominence in their chosen professions.

After a social hour to begin the Friday evening program, Simon R. B. Thompson, Director of the Foothills Equistrian Nature Center of Tryon, NC, presented a slide illustrated workshop on warbler identification. He was followed by Harry LeGrand who introduced the other field trip leaders, Mark Simpson, Simon Thompson, Merrill Lynch, Dr. J. Frank Randall, John Wright

## Book Signing



Mark Simpson, author, and Doug Pratt, illustrator of *Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains*, autograph copies of the book for eager buyers at the Carolina Bird Club spring meeting. Against a backdrop of the original illustrations for the book and other bird paintings by Pratt, the two were kept busy both Friday and Saturday evenings during the social hour before the program.

and Doug Pratt. They joined Harry in describing the field trips to various snow-free portions of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the New River, and The Nature Conservancy Bluff Mountain preserve.

Saturday dawned with a decided gray cast, but the weather was much better than we had feared. By the time of the count-down at the conclusion of the evening program, 138 species had been seen, including Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Wilson's and Nashville Warblers as well as Warbling Vireo and Sedge Wren. The only organized trip on Sunday was a return to Bluff Mountain, but beautiful, sunny weather had many birders out on the Parkway checking out the very specific

bird finding directions in *Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains*.

The Saturday evening program began with the annual business meeting. Officers elected to one year terms were John Wright of Greenville, NC, president; Len Pardue of Durham, NC, secretary; and Robert Wood of Columbia, SC, treasurer. Those elected to two year terms were Pat Wilkinson of Shelby, NC, member-at-large (WNC); Ricky Davis of Rocky Mount, NC, member at large (ENC); and Lex Glover of Lugoff, SC, member-at-large (SC). Taylor Piephoff of Charlotte, NC was elected to a three year term as vice-

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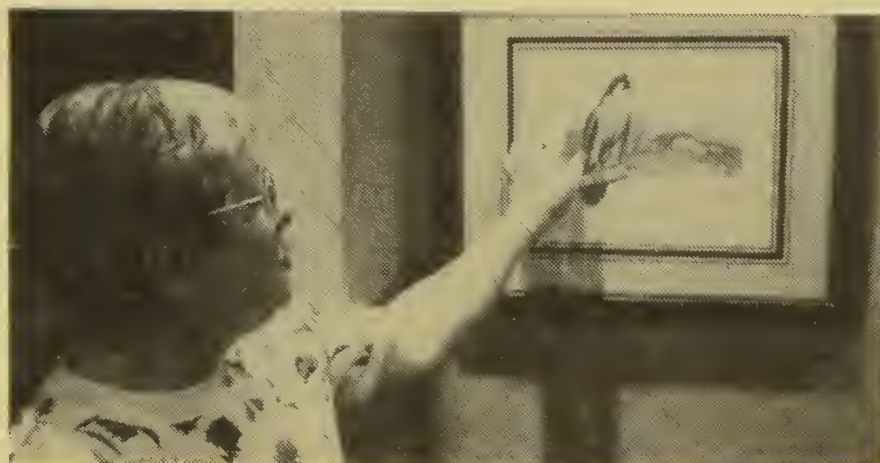
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 president (WNC). Officers who were ineligible for reelection under the term limits set by the by-laws were recognized for their outstanding service--**Simon R. B. Thompson** of Tryon, NC, secretary; **Heathy Walker** of Charlotte, NC, treasurer; and **Ruth Young** of Fairview, NC, vice-president (WNC).

Business quickly gave way to a spell-binding trip down the chain of mountains from Pennsylvania to northern Georgia called the Blue Ridge. In addition to detailing the geomorphology, climate, vegetation and bird life of the mountains, Dr. Simpson gave an interesting review of the men who had first explored these mountains. Of special concern were the changes in the mountains which have been brought about by the impact of development.

Program, attendance and birding combined to make the 1992 spring meeting a mountain top experience.



Officers elected at spring meeting from left: Ricky Davis, Lex Glover, Taylor Piephoff, John Wright, Robert Wood and Pat Wilkinson. Not present for picture, Len Pardue.



Eloise Potter, editor emeritus of *The Chat*, points out detail in an illustration for *Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains* while Ben and Lucy Smith of Mt. Pleasant, SC admire other paintings exhibited by Doug Pratt at the CBC spring meeting in Boone, NC.

## Early Warning for Fall Meeting

Before **Frances Needham**, CBC Member-at-large for Eastern North Carolina, left for birding adventures in Churchill, she sent an early warning about the fall meeting in Wilmington. Dates are September 25-27 with a motel reservation **deadline of September 11**. Since the August *Newsletter* might not reach everyone in time to allow for adequate notice, we are again having an early bird registration.

The motel will be the Comfort Inn-Executive Center at 151 College Road (NC 132). The rate for up to four persons in a room is \$40.00 plus tax. Please use the reservation form provided or call toll free 1-800-221-2222.

Reservations must be canceled no later than 6:00 p.m. of the date of arrival to avoid a charge of one night's lodging. The motel has a complimentary continental breakfast beginning at 7:00 a.m., and the Shoney's Restaurant next door opens at 6:00 a.m.

Registration for the meeting begins Friday at 3:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Comfort Inn with refreshments provided by the **Lower Cape Fear Bird Club**. A social hour with cash bar will also be held in the lobby from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Both the Friday and Saturday evening meetings will convene at the Roland Grice Middle School auditorium about a mile

from the motel. The speaker Saturday evening will be the ever popular **Jim Parnell** of UNC-Wilmington.

Saturday field trip destinations will include Carolina Beach State Park, NC Aquarium grounds and beach, Eagle Island Corps of Engineers impoundments, and anywhere else that's hot at that time. Directions (and perhaps a guide) for a sightseeing tour of Wilmington for non-birders will be available.

Don't forget to register with CBC headquarters at the same time you make motel reservations. It saves you money and is a great help to our hard working registration volunteers.



# Backyard Birding

with Frances J. Nelson

June 8, 1992 -- Our yard has glittered with color and music this spring. We've had Indigo Buntings, goldfinches, cardinals, a Blue Grosbeak, a Summer Tanager, and a Scarlet Tanager (#95 on property list) in the yard flitting around the feeders and singing from the trees. As we have walked through the woods we have heard a Kentucky Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush and Louisiana Waterthrush. At night we sat on the front deck and listened to Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills calling back and forth. Often in the pre-dawn hours we have heard a Whip-poor-will sounding as if he's right outside our bedroom window.

We had our first hummingbird on April 10. We'd had one feeder up since the end of March. The feeder was in one of the spots where we have had feeders every year, but where did the hummer end up? Trapped in our garage. We have several red objects in the garage, so I guess that is what attracted him. I watched from the kitchen door as he flew frantically around but never down low enough to escape through the open door. I felt so sorry for the poor little bird that I filled another feeder and attached it to the door handle. The hummer finally left the garage. I moved the feeder to the outside edge of the garage with the idea of moving it farther and farther away from the doorway. The hummer fed and then flew into the garage, but this time he was able to find his own way out. Now the feeders are where they usually are, and we have had no more frustrated, garaged hummers.

The weekend before the entrapped hummer, we visited my parents in Washington, NC. We were driving around admiring the azaleas and saw an albino robin acting just like any other robin. We stopped and watched the white, pale red chested bird hop around in the grass. We tried taking pictures. Although the robin was cooperative, our photos didn't turn out as well as we hoped.

I did get some nice shots of a Wood

Thrush nest by the creek behind our house. We had seen the female sitting on the nest--motionless as we walked by and looked. Unfortunately the pictures are birdless. We first saw the nest on May 7th, but we never saw any other Wood Thrushes, and now the nest has been abandoned.

We also had a phoebe nest on the shed by the garden. We could see about seven or eight attempts sites before the phoebe finally found a piece of door frame wide enough to attach a nest. On May 15th we worked in the garden for six hours, and the phoebe chip-called her babies the entire time. I went in and out of the shed to get newspaper mulch and saw the babies sitting on the edge of the nest, but they just would not fly. The next morning we went down to check. The female was still chip-calling. When we started toward the shed we scared the babies and all three flew into the nearby dogwoods.



Eastern Phoebe

The next weekend CJ put up two ledges so the phoebe would have a more secure place to build. Two days later I saw some straw, and the next day a complete nest was on one of the ledges. We have seen the phoebe around the nest but not sitting on it yet.

In addition to phoebes, we have had two families of bluebirds fledge, and the nesting boxes each have four eggs in them again. One newly-fledged bird ended up one night in our laundry room inside the garage. CJ went out to walk our outside dog before shutting her up for the night and saw a bird fly into the laundry room. He climbed up into the storage area above and found the bluebird, brought it into the house to show me, and then let it go in the woods. Evidently it had been attracted by the lights.

We haven't found other nests, but we know some must be around, because we have had young Red-bellied Woodpeckers gobbling up our suet. Speaking of suet, I found a recipe for summer suet on page 57

of the June 1992 issue of *Wild Bird* magazine. The cook promises it won't melt. We haven't tried it yet, but we are almost out of our commercial suet, so we will be making a batch soon. "Over low heat, melt one cup of lard with one cup of crunchy peanut butter. Stir in two cups of 'quick cook' oats, two cups of cornmeal, one cup of white flour and one-third cup of sugar. Pour this mixture into square plastic containers and store in your freezer." This sounds quite a bit like marvel meal, doesn't it? Anyway, we will try it and let you know what the birds think about it.

Mentioning marvel meal reminds me that Dave Abraham of West Columbia, SC sent us a delightful marvel meal feeder that he had made from a holly branch. He even bevelled the ends of each "perch" to make the feeder look more finished. He attached pop bottle tops to the "trunk" to hold the food. It makes a nice marvel meal feeder and our birds seem to like it.

Mr Abraham identified his hawk more conclusively. He sent a sketch of the bird in flight, and it certainly looks like a Merlin. In his last letter he also enclosed photos of two nuthatches going in and out of his birdhouse at the same time. In the photo you can see the head of one and the tail of the other. Another photograph was of his bug-light-turned-bird-feeder. He'd had trouble with a possum in the feeder so he put two strands of wire around the outside to act as a fence. The possum merely bent the wire and crawled into the feeder.

We haven't had possums attack our feeders, but we have had a squirrel family show up.

The only other news I can think of is that CJ took Mr. Abraham's example and removed our chimney cap so swifts could nest in our chimney. The Abrahams saw swifts on April 8th, but we never saw one until May 20. That was after we'd had the cold spell and had to turn on the heat. We couldn't build a fire in the wood stove because the cap was off for the swifts. I'm still not convinced that the amount of electricity we used was worth it. We don't have birds in the chimney yet either, but maybe next year.

I did not hear from Betty McIlwain, so I have nothing to report on her owls. I would love to hear about them and from others of you. Please write . . . 1006 Dogwood Hill Lane, Wake Forest, NC 27587 or phone (919) 528-2827.



# CBC Field Trips Go International !

## Amazonian Ecuador: La Selva Lodge

Leaders: Merrill Lynch & Derb Carter

February 12-21, 1993

Limit: 14 Participants Cost: \$1,195 + airfare

Ecuador, a country the size of Colorado, straddles the Andes Mountains of northwestern South America. This relatively tiny country has a bird list of over 1400 species, twice as many as in all of North America north of Mexico! Our tour focuses on the most species-rich habitat in the entire world -- lowland Amazonian rainforest -- located along the Rio Napo in eastern Ecuador. We will spend six full days at one of the premier birding localities on the continent - the fabulous La Selva Lodge.

So rich is upper Amazonian rainforest that in only five years of operation La Selva has amassed a bird list of over 450 species. The lodge is located on an oxbow lake deep in the primary forest along the Rio Napo, a major tributary of the mighty Amazon.

From Quito, the picturesque capital of Ecuador, nestled in an Andean valley at 9,000 feet above seal level, we'll take a 40-minute flight across the eastern Andes to Coca. If the weather is clear we will have spectacular views of snowcapped volcanos and wild tropical forests below, broken only by scattered clearings along the rivers and the few towns.

From the airport we'll transfer to the dock to board our motorized dugout canoe for the 2.5 hour boat ride down the wide Rio Napo. Though much of the habitat directly adjacent to the river has been cut and disturbed, we'll still see a wide variety of birds. From the La Selva landing, we will bird our way through swamp forest on a boardwalk to pristine Garzacocha (Heron Lake), on whose shore stands our lodge and home for the next six nights.

An excellent system of foot trails provide access to many of the varied habitats of the rainforest. We will take dugout canoes to many of the lake and stream edge habitats of the area. We will also have a chance to bird early



*DCarter*

successional habitats on the river islands by canoe as well as visit saline bluffs frequented by hundreds of parrots and parakeets. Each day we'll set out before dawn on foot or by canoe to sample the incredibly rich bird life in the vicinity of the lodge. A recently constructed observation tower provides access to the rainforest canopy where we will have the opportunity to see many species at eye level. We will also venture out after dark to search for night birds including several species of owls and potoos, most of which occur within a 10 minute walk from the lodge.

The lodge sits on a hillside overlooking the oxbow lake. A large veranda enables us to have a great view of the lake and the surrounding forests. Meals are served at the restaurant in the main building and box lunches are provided during our all day excursions. The food is splendid and diverse. Many delicious tropical dishes are served and our taste buds will be rewarded! Sleeping quarters are double occupancy, screened-in, thatched roof huts with private bathrooms and showers. Kerosene lamps provide light for each room. The main building and restaurant receive electricity from a diesel generator.

During our six full days of birding at La Selva we should expect to see between

220-250 species of birds including a chance at some truly spectacular ones such as Harpy Eagle, Great Potoo, Horned Screamer, Hoatzin, Scarlet Macaw, and Zigzag Heron. Imagine these possibilities: 19 parrot species, 6 trogons, 7 jacamars, 11 puffbirds, 7 toucans, 14 woodpeckers, 14 woodcreepers, 23 Furnariids, 53 antbirds, 57 flycatchers, 12 manakins, and 34 tanagers!! We should also have good looks at several species of monkeys, sloths, and other mammals.

Leaders for this trip are Merrill Lynch and Derb Carter. Both are long-time members of the Carolina Bird Club and experienced tropical birders.

**Requirements:** A current passport, valid beyond the date of your return is necessary for entry into Ecuador. Although the tour will not involve strenuous hiking, we will be spending most daylight hours walking and participants should be in good physical condition.

**Cost:** The cost of \$1,195 is per person, double occupancy. It includes all lodging, all food from dinner on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 8, one beverage of your choice per meal excluding alcoholic beverages, the flight from Quito to Coca, all ground transportation, entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, and the guide services of the tour leaders. **Not included** are the roundtrip airfare to Quito (\$825 from RDU as of 4/92), airport taxes, visa fees, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of personal expense.

**Registration:** Contact Merrill Lynch at (919) 387-8757 (H), (919) 967-7007 (W) or Derb Carter (919) 833-4859 (H), (919) 967-1450 (W) for further information and to reserve space. A deposit of \$150 is required by August 1, 1992.



# CBC Summer & Fall Field Trips

## Pelagic Trip

**Leaders:** Ricky Davis & Mike Tove

**Saturday, July 25, 1992**

**Limit:** 22 participants **Cost:** \$80

This CBC sponsored trip came about as a promise to those CBC members who signed up for the Fall 1991 meeting trip that got weathered out. Although the time of year is summer, there will still be a chance for some exciting pelagic birding!

The boat, the Country Girl, is docked at Pirate's Cove Marina on the Roanoke Island/Nags Head causeway. Captain Allen Foreman will get us underway early, so everyone should be at the dock at 5:30 a.m.

To get the most out of this trip, some helpful hints are in order. Bring binoculars and cameras but no scopes. Tripods do not work well on a rocking boat! Bring on board a lunch, snacks and plenty of drinks to combat thirst. Do remember to pack as small a cooler as possible due to limited space. Also bring proper clothing such as non-skid tennis shoes, waterproof jacket, and a hat.

Sunscreen is strongly recommended as sun and glare can be brutal on the water. Last but not least, please be prepared with a motion sickness preventative. Tablets such as Dramamine, Marezine, and Bonine work well for some people, but others require a little more help. The Transderm Scopalamine patches are quite effective for most people and usually work even when the tablets don't. The patches require a prescription from your family doctor. However, we hope that the seas will be relatively calm for our July trip.

As for birds, shearwaters such as Cory's and Audubon's are expected. Hopefully we'll encounter Greater Shearwater too. Wilson's Storm-petrels are expected and we hope for Leach's and even the Band-rumped Storm-petrel. Also we will keep our eyes open for Black-capped Petrels which we should find out in the deeper water. We expect to find some Bridled

Terns and maybe some Sooty Terns too. As with any pelagic trip, the chance for something unexpected to show up is always present. Who knows, we could find some interesting birds such as White-tailed Tropicbird, Masked Booby, or Brown Noddy!

Accommodations are available in Manteo at the Duke of Dare Motor Lodge (919) 473-2175 and The Elizabethan Inn (919) 473-2101. Also there are many options in the Nags Head area, but since it is the summer season you should call and reserve your room well in advance.

**Registration:** Contact Ricky Davis at (919) 443-0276 to reserve space. Send registration form with fee to CBC headquarters. (At the time the *Newsletter* went to press there was ample space available on this trip.)

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## Outer Banks Shorebirds

**Leaders:** Derb Carter & John Wright

**Saturday, August 22, 1992**

**Limit:** 25 participants **Cost:** \$10

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge headquarters which is located approximately 5 miles south of the Oregon Inlet bridge. Bring a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and shoes which you don't mind getting wet.

Mid-August is the peak of migration for adult shore birds departing their breeding grounds. The Outer Banks of North Carolina is an outstanding area in which to observe this migration and to study at close range a diversity of shore birds. We will concentrate on shore bird identification and search the flocks

carefully for rarities or strays.

In addition to the expected shore birds, mid-August has proven to be an excellent time for more scarce shore birds including Curlew Sandpiper (probably the most reliable place in North America to see the Eurasian stray), Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, and Ruff. We will search the flocks of "peeps" carefully for the ever possible Stint.

We will begin at the impoundments on Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and, depending on water levels and the numbers of birds, work our way to Cape Hatteras

Point. This is also an excellent time to search the tern colony at Cape Point for Sooty and Roseate Terns.

Nearby accommodations are available in Nags Head and Manteo. Rates in Manteo are lower than on the beach. Manteo motels include The Elizabethan (919) 473-2101, Duke of Dare (919) 473-2175, and Dare Haven.

**Registration:** Contact Derb Carter at (919) 833-4859 or John Wright (919) 756-5139 to reserve space. Send registration form with fee to CBC headquarters.

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## Bird Banding Demonstration II

**Leaders:** Evelyn Dabbs & Lex Glover

**Sunday, October 4, 1992**

**Limit:** 30 participants **Cost:** \$5

Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Black River Swamp Banding State at the home of Tommy and Evelyn Dabbs near Sumter, SC. Bring a lunch. Morning snack and hot and cold drinks will be provided.

This will be a "hands-on" experience for participants to band and release birds. It is

an excellent way to study the birds up close and in the hand, especially the fall plumaged warblers. This is also a great opportunity to photograph these birds.

We will expect to see warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, tanagers, sparrows, and orioles. A two year intensive fall

banding study has yielded a total of 85 species banded at this site; with the largest concentration of birds moving through the area during the last week of September and the first week of October.

Other areas of interest that are nearby are  
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the Super Sod Farm outside of Orangeburg (should be good for migrating shorebirds--Lesser Golden Plover, Buff-breasted and Upland Sandpipers to name a few) and Santee National Wildlife Refuge.

**Directions:** From Sumter head east on US 378 for twelve miles until you cross a series of three bridges. Get into left lane and turn left at the second median crossing after the third bridge into the lane

by two mailboxes. Follow the lane about one mile to the only house in view.

Heading south on I-95 take Exit #135 and turn right on US 378. Go five miles to SC 527 and continue on US 378 for one mile beyond intersection with SC 527. Turn right into lane by two mailboxes and continue as above.

Heading north on I-95 take Exit #132 and turn left on SC 527. Go four miles and turn left on US 378. Go for one mile

and turn right into lane by two mailboxes. Continue as above.

Nearby accommodations are available at the Turbeville Comfort Inn (803) 659-8282 or Days Inn (803) 659-2175. Both are located at the intersection of I-95 and SC 378 (Exit #135).

**Registration:** Contact Evelyn Dabbs at (803) 495-8220 to reserve space. Send registration form with fee to CBC headquarters.

## Field Trip Report

by Clyde Smith

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"Less is more." Whether you are quoting Robert Browning or Ludwig Mies van de Rohe it was certainly true in Wenee Woods on April 29. Less birders gathered than the limit set for the bird banding demonstration at the South Carolina home of Evelyn and Tommy Dabbs.

However, this meant more fun and hands on participation for the ten enthusiastic birders who took part.

Lex Glover, who bands under the license held by Evelyn, had lowered the

nets before light and had a nice assortment of birds waiting when the demonstration began at 10:00 a.m. After a brief explanation of the purpose and requirements for bird banding, Lex first demonstrated the proper technique and then permitted each participant to band and release birds. We were like children in a candy store. Excitement ran high over even the most common birds. Proud South Carolinians banded and released their state bird. Those who had never seen birds in the hand were amazed at how small they were compared to how large they appear in binoculars. While the demonstration was going on, Evelyn and her helpers, Howard Jennings and Marge Schenck, were making the

rounds of the nets bringing in the latest captives. Later we saw how delicate an operation this is as we watched Evelyn carefully extricate a hopelessly entangled Carolina Chickadee.

After lunch we took a break and did some conventional birdwatching which produced a very cooperative Mississippi Kite and several Horned Larks. Neither of these species made the nets, but when we officially shut down the demonstration we had captured 60 individuals of 22 species. Several had already been banded in this or previous seasons, and their data was recorded. A total of 35 individuals of 16 species actually received bands. "What a wonderful day" was the sentiment expressed for all by one veteran birder.

## Good Bird; Bad Judgment

"Have you ever risked death or serious injury in pursuit of a good bird?"

The question, asked not long ago in a birding magazine, seemed only partly facetious. The implication was that any true birder just *might* go to that extreme.

Not I! -- or so I insisted to myself at the time.

Inadvertently, I put myself in just such a situation during a recent vacation to North Carolina. Call it one of my least memorable moments of birding. It certainly was one of my dumbest.

One of my target birds was Swainson's Warbler. A good spot to find it, I had been told, Was Chimney Rock State Park east of Asheville.

The park certainly lived up to its billing. This was especially true of the Forest Trail. It cuts across a steep, wooded slope of boulders and rhododendron thickets at the base of the towering cliffs that are Chimney Rock's outstanding feature.

Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, and Hooded Warblers were all over the place. A Worm-eating Warbler sang at the head of the trail; I saw or heard at least five others, and could often spish them into view.

The Swainson's Warblers, however, posed a problem. They were there all right, in at least four locations. I could hear the songs that I had so carefully studied on records ahead of time.

But the birds would not show themselves.

When I called the day before, the park naturalist told me to bring along a taped song to lure the Swainson's into view. Unfortunately, I had not brought a tape with me on our trip.

So I spished loudly; I spished softly. I waited patiently, not spishing at all. To no avail.

Part of the problem was that the birds were lurking in thickets just above the trail. The steep slope meant they were

above eye level.

So when one called from a thicket next to a rock slide, I had a brilliant idea.

I would climb up the rock slide, work my way onto the ledge, and hopefully have a better angle to see the birds working through the brush.

Unfortunately, as I started to haul myself onto the ledge, a rock gave way beneath my foot. A fallen tree limb I was counting on for backup support snapped off in my hand.

Suddenly I was falling backward onto the jagged rocks below.

I'm not sure how far I fell; it was only a few feet. But I landed hard -- very hard. All I could think was to get up -- as quickly as possible -- and start moving. Miraculously, I could.

I took stock: two mashed toes that would hobble me for days; severe bruises on my rear that took nearly two weeks to disappear; bruised ribs; a skinned elbow;

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# Hotline

## Highlights

(Caution: sightings reported on the RBA are not necessarily verified, and publication in the newsletter does not substitute for review by the appropriate Bird Records Committee and publication in *The Chat*.)

December was highlighted by the appearance of normally coastal species at inland bodies of water; especially in North Carolina. Jordan Lake was the hotspot with Parasitic Jaeger, Northern Gannet, Brant, Great Black-backed Gull, and Red-necked Grebe all being reported.

The Common Black-headed Gull in Morehead City, NC was reported several times in December. A Hudsonian Godwit lingered for a couple of weeks at Huntington Beach State Park for a rare South Carolina record. Common Mergansers appeared near Charlotte, NC, December-February; and also at Cape Point on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Early December also brought a rash of *Selasphorus* hummingbird reports. Locales included Charlotte, NC; Tryon, NC; and Lake Keowee in SC.

The first rarity report of 1992 was provided by a male Western Tanager near Charleston, SC. This bird lingered for weeks but departed prior to the CBC winter meeting.

Reports for January as a whole were sparse as birders evidently were recuperating from the Christmas Count Period rush. Best reports were of Sandhill Crane near Lake Mattamuskeet, NC and an injured adult Northern Goshawk received at the Carolina Raptor Center. This unfortunate bird had been shot in Lincoln County, NC.

Several reports of Lapland Longspurs were received from various sites in North and South Carolina. The rare bird highlight of the period, however, was of a Chestnut-collared Longspur at the Charlotte Motor Speedway reported in late February.

## Founding Member Dies

Gay whistler of the sunny days  
Or harsh announcer of your wrath,  
Gray Peto with your funny ways,  
You're always welcome in my path.  
...Ralph W. Green

And "Gray Peto" (Tufted Titmouse) did descend to the path behind The Reverend Cally Rogers-Witte, pastor of Community United Church of Christ, as she conducted the memorial service for Charlotte Hilton Green. His "gay whistle" was added to the voices of friends and neighbors who had gathered in the Raleigh park which bears her name to pay tribute to this teacher, naturalist, and author.

Poetry by Peggy Hoffman and George Miksch Sutton was read. Betty Anderson, a neighbor of Mrs. Green for 23 years, read a letter written for the occasion by her son, David, telling of Mrs. Green's influence in his formative years. Other friends shared their special memories, and all joined in reading Mrs. Green's "The Nature Lover's Evening Psalm." The leafy chapel rang with bird song and a closing "Alleluia" sung by Carolyn Sampson.

Charlotte Hilton Green was born in Dunkirk, NY and died March 26, 1992 at the age of 102 in a nursing home in Tarboro, NC. She moved to Raleigh, NC with her husband, Ralph W. Green, in 1920. Mrs. Green began writing feature stories for *The News & Observer* in 1932, and for 42 years her column "Out-of-Doors in Carolina" was "a bully pulpit for the gospel of the natural world's worth and beauty." Two collections of her columns were made into books: *Birds of the South* and *Trees of the South*. She was an active lecturer on nature and conservation for women's clubs, bird clubs, book clubs, scout troops, 4-H groups and radio audiences.

Mrs. Green and six other members of the Raleigh Natural History Club formed the Raleigh Bird Club in 1937. They immediately issued a statewide call for people interested in forming a North Carolina Bird Club to meet at the Raleigh Woman's Club on March 6, 1937. The organization founded as a result of that meeting was the forerunner of today's Carolina Bird Club which mourns the passing of a great lady.

Reports of absent birds can be just as informative as "present" ones. Several callers commented on the almost total absence of winter finches; i.e. Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin. On the other hand, there were numerous reports of lingering warblers in both Carolinas with several Wilson's Warblers, a Hooded Warbler, and American Redstart all being detected in January and February.

-- Taylor Piephoff



**Bad Judgment** (continued from previous page)  
cuts and torn skin on my hand.

Two thoughts immediately occurred to me: I had been incredibly lucky. And incredibly stupid.

Lucky that I had not broken my back; that I had not even dented my binoculars.

Stupid to have attempted such a stunt, especially when I was birding alone, on a deserted trail, with no one in shouting distance.

I take no pride in relating this story. Let it simply illustrate what can happen when the zeal to see a "lifer" gets in the way of common sense.

-- Bob Marcotte

**CBC Rare Bird Alert**

**(704) 332-BIRD**



# In The Field

with Simon R. B. Thompson



There are many different aspects to Birdwatching or Birding depending on your degree of commitment. Many people are content to watch their feeders every day and observe the daily comings and goings that go on. A great deal of important research has been undertaken by these feeder-watchers, including some fascinating work on bird behaviour. Other people tend to "chase" birds waiting for rare and unusual birds to appear. They then race off across the country to count them on their respective lists. Of course between these two extremes lie many of us, and we can call ourselves birdwatchers or birders depending on our preference.

This "In the Field" column will be a sort of avian "catch-all" column, and will include information on many subjects of bird behaviour, interesting sightings, field techniques and equipment, plus profiles on people, and of course, birds. This will be an outlet for all of us within the Carolina Bird Club to add a little to our knowledge of birds and birders within the Carolinas. I

will be the general coordinator of the column, but it will need a little input from time to time from you out there, the great Carolina Bird Club membership.

Birdwatching, both within this country and abroad, is increasing in popularity, and as well as just enjoying the birds around us, it is important to delve a little deeper into the relationship between birds and the environment. To understand the answers to the questions "how," "why," and "when" enable us to gain an insight into how the web of life fits together. We cannot envisage knowing all of the answers, but knowledge breeds knowledge, and the more that we know and understand, the better we can protect the birds and the environment. After all, the driving force behind the Carolina Bird Club is our love and appreciation of birds. So if you have any ideas on different subjects and topics for this column, please contact me.

*Simon R. B. Thompson, 109 Bradshaw Road, Tryon, NC 28782, Tel. (704) 859-6049*

## Travel Opportunities

There are a number of CBC members who lead field trips which are sponsored by other organizations. As timing and space permit, announcements of these trips are carried in the *CBC Newsletter*.

Deadlines are past for the July 18-26 Amazon Jungle Adventure in Peru led by Simon R. B. Thompson and the August 1-8 trip to the Chan Chich Lodge in Belize led by Dennis Forsythe. However, if you just can't wait until next year, you might try calling Simon at (704) 859-9021 or Dennis at (803) 795-3996 to see if there have been any last minute cancellations.

Mike Tove has a very active schedule of pelagic trips out of Oregon Inlet, NC.

The dates are August 15 (deep water), August 17 (Gulf Stream), September 12 (fall migration), and September 26 (fall migration). The cost of each trip is \$80.

Your reservation request along with full payment should be sent to Michael Tove, Pterodroma Ptours, 303 Dunhagen Place, Cary, NC 27511.

Mike is also planning two or more trips late January through February. Call at (919) 460-0338 or write for details after September, 1992



## Hummingbird Q & A



by Dottie Foy

Should feeders be taken down on Labor Day as Marty Stauffer of Wild America advocates?

...Charleston, SC

Absolutely not! It is an "old wives tale" that we should make sure our feeders are down on Labor Day so the hummers will leave on their migration south. The presence of food alone cannot hold hummers to one location. If this were the case, why would any hummer ever leave a well tended feeder? It is counterproductive to remove feeders at a time when they could add to the survival of those coming through our areas from the north. Then we could have those marginal migrants coming through that for some reason or another are not fat enough to endure the rigors of migration. Leave those feeders up until at least Thanksgiving or later. More later on how to keep your feeder from freezing if you wish to leave it up all winter.

*Send your hummingbird questions to Mrs. Dorothy J. Foy, PO Box 457, Oriental, NC 28571.*

## Books ! Books ! Books !

An interesting and informative book on hummingbirds has been published recently by Bird Watcher's Digest Press. *Enjoying Hummingbirds More* can be ordered by calling 1-800-879-2473. Individual copies are \$2.50 plus \$1.00 postage.

*Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains*, described in the report of the CBC fall meeting is available at local bookstores or may be ordered from UNC Press by calling 1-800-848-6224. Paperback is \$14.95 and cloth \$29.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. NC residents will be charged 6% sales tax.



## Membership Application and Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(home) (business)

Enter/Renew Membership As Indicated

Send Materials Indicated

\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$12)

\_\_\_\_ Family (\$15)

\_\_\_\_ Student (\$6)

\_\_\_\_ Affiliate Club (\$15)

\_\_\_\_ Library/Institution (\$15)

\_\_\_\_ Life (\$200)

\_\_\_\_ Patron (\$50)

\_\_\_\_ CBC Cloth arm patch \$1.50 ea., \$1.25 ea. in quantity

\_\_\_\_ CBC Decals (water type) 75c ea., 50c ea. in quantity

\_\_\_\_ Daily Checklists 10/\$1.00, 25/\$1.25, 50/\$2.50, 75/\$3.75

100/\$5.00

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611

### Registration Form CBC Special Field Trips

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(list each participant)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the following field trips: \_\_\_\_ Pelagic trip, July 25 (\$80); \_\_\_\_ Outer Banks Shorebirds, August 22 (\$10); \_\_\_\_ Bird Banding Demonstration II, October 4 (\$5) \_\_\_\_ Amazonian Ecuador, Feb. 12-21, 1993 (\$150 deposit). I have called the appropriate trip leader to ensure that space is available.

Mail with check to Carolina Bird Club, Inc., PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611

### Comfort Inn Reservation Form Carolina Bird Club Fall Meeting, September 25-27, 1992

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Rooms (up to 4 persons) \$40.00 plus tax.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ room(s) at \$40.00 per night. My check for the first night's lodging is enclosed. I will arrive \_\_\_\_\_ and depart \_\_\_\_\_.

Mail with deposit to Comfort Inn-Executive Center, 151 South College Rd., Wilmington, NC 28403 or call 1-800-221-2222

### Registration Form CBC Fall Meeting, September 25-27, 1992

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(list each name for name tags)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_ member registrations at \$4 each and \_\_\_\_ nonmember registrations at \$5 each. Registration at meeting will be \$5 for members and \$6 for nonmembers.

Mail with check to Carolina Bird Club, Inc., PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611



# Welcome New Members

**David Blevins**  
Raleigh, NC

**Sam Brayshaw**  
Bufton, SC

**Betsy Bree & Mark Kelly**  
Alexandria, VA

**J. Wallace Coffey**  
Bristol, TN

**Carson Library**  
Lees McRae College  
Banner Elk, NC

**Jennifer M. Dibble**  
Raleigh, NC

**John & Sharon Egan**  
Greensboro, NC

**Mary Lou Eycke**  
Raleigh, NC

**Tim & Becky Ford**  
Havelock, NC

**William & Ruth Grimm**  
Easley, SC

**David Harrington**  
Matthews, NC

**Jeff Hole**  
Greensboro, NC

**Bob Holland**  
Lenoir, NC

**Randy Holley**  
Greenville, NC

**John R. Hudson**  
Pisgah Forest, NC

**Thomas J. Joyce**  
Pisgah Forest, NC

**Fred W. Kinard, Jr.**  
Summerville, SC

**Anne B. Knight**  
Charleston, SC

**Lynn Lyle**  
Raleigh, NC

**Jo McConnell**  
Brevard, NC

**Julie Mansfveio**  
Raleigh, NC

**Dick Marshall**  
Potomac, MD

**Natural History Museum**  
London, England

**Dorothy T. Perry**  
Raleigh, NC

**Holly M. Reynolds family**  
New Bern, NC

**Michael Rowe**  
Boone, NC

**Mary S. Sauerteig**  
Pisgah Forest, NC

**Harry & Mary Sherwood**  
Lake Toxaway, NC

**Rodney Stalheom family**  
Lenoir, NC

**Jo Anne Stokes**  
Durham, NC

**Anne & John Ulinski**  
Hendersonville, NC

**Judy Walker**  
Charlotte, NC

**Ed Welch**  
Woodbridge, VA

**Eileen H. Wilson**  
Asheville, NC

## Deceased

**Mrs. Lawrence Butler**  
Hendersonville, NC

**Thomas J. Desmond**  
Aberdeen, NC

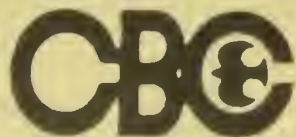
**Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green**  
Tarboro, NC

**Thomas J. Jones**  
Raleigh

**Dickson Whisnant**  
Lenoir, NC

CBC Newsletter is published quarterly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc., the ornithological society of the Carolinas, with headquarters at Raleigh, NC. CBC is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1937, with membership open to anyone interested in birds, natural history and conservation. Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to CBC Newsletter, Clyde Smith, Editor, 2615 Wells Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, INC.



P.O. BOX 27647, RALEIGH, NC 27611

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Post Office  
Permit No. 1654  
Raleigh, NC 27611







